

The COOS GUARDIAN

Vox Populi, Vox Dei.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1934

PRICE THREE CENTS

Workers to Confer with Company on Wages

Workers Club Weekly Meeting

By Hugh K. Jr.

Except for bills all regular routine business was postponed at the Club's weekly meeting last night. Nominations for the Club's coming officers were made and they will be voted on at next week's meeting.

President Edward J. Legassie was nominated for re-election and his nomination would have been unanimous but for the fact that the by-laws of the Club require that there be at least two candidates for each office. Leo Frechette, an active member of the Club, was nominated to oppose President Legassie.

Interviewed after the meeting was adjourned Mr. Frechette stated that he accepted the nomination simply to fulfill the by-laws and regulations of the Club. He also stated he would work for President Legassie and desires to see the latter re-elected.

(Continued on Page 4)

Workers Club headquarters released a statement last night to the effect that the Company officials had called the Workers Club Wage Increase Committee to a conference to be held Friday morning at 9:00 o'clock. This communication came as a direct answer to the Workers Club's resolution voted last Sunday night at the mass meeting held at the City Hall.

Workers Club Vote for Wage Increase and Against Daylight Saving Time.

At the open mass meeting held last Sunday night the Workers Club voted to petition the Brown Company for a wage increase in view of the fact that the commodity price trend is on the upward and that business has increased under the N. R. A. A motion to have the Workers Club demand Daylight Saving time for the coming summer was voted down, as was an amendment calling for a 7-4 work schedule.

President Legassie presided and reported the findings of the budget committee which had been accumulating data on the increase in the cost of living in the City of Berlin within the last year. The returns of the committee showed the following estimates on the cost of living in Berlin at the present time: family of three, \$19.56 per week; family of four, \$22.95 per week; and family of six, \$24.10 per week. These estimates covered practically only rent, groceries, clothes, and insurance leaving next to nothing for spending money and incidentals.

Four resolutions calling for a wage schedule equal to the weekly pay of the year 1929, for emergency time and overtime to be paid time and one-half, for seniority rule in hiring, discharge, promotion, etc., and for employee representation were adopted unanimously by the assembled gathering.

We, herewith, reproduce the resolutions drafted for petition to the Company:

(Continued on Page 3)

Butler and VanZandt in Berlin Tomorrow

Major-General Smedley D. Butler and Commander-in-Chief (V. F. W.) James E. Van Zandt will address an Open Gathering at the City Hall Thursday, April 26, at 7 p. m. and will speak on Veteran Legislation.

General Butler and Commander Van Zandt will arrive on the C. N. R. noon train and will be met by a reception committee consisting of a delegation from all organizations in the city. A parade up Pleasant Street and down Main to the Hotel Costello will follow with the drum corps and representation from all civic clubs; a luncheon will be served at the hotel to the guests of honor.

Major-General Butler is a nationally known figure not only be-

V. F. W. Open Meeting

CITY HALL
with
Major General
SMEDLEY D. BUTLER
and
Commander-in-Chief
JAMES E. VAN ZANDT

Holders of invitations to the Ball are entitled to reserved seats at the open meeting. Reserved seats will be held till 7:15. Reception Ball at Armory following meeting.

Music by
Lloyd Rafnell and his Georgians

Report Shoe Factory to Locate in Derry

(Special to the Guardian)

A report was circulated that the Burtman-Rondeau Co. was to locate the shoe factory proposed for Berlin in Derry, N. H. That town possesses an empty shoe factory available for this project. The report was investigated by the Guardian over the telephone in conversation with Mr. Rondeau. He stated that Derry was considered along with a town in Maine and one in Vermont and that the "business" was progressing rather slowly in the negotiations with the City of Berlin. He went so far as to say that he reported to his organization that Berlin was "out" and that search is to be begun for another site. However, before closing he made it clear that quick action would still be accepted from Berlin. This last statement, it seems, will now make no difference as to the shoe factory project as the report to the council appears to have ended the matter.

Plans are being made for a grandiose celebration of the First Annual Birthday Ball of the Workers Club. The ball will be held at the State Armory, on May 10. A special entertainment committee is working on the program and expects to release it next week. According to tentative plans there will be a contest for the title of Queen of the May Ball, the two best orchestras in the city will stage a battle of music, and other surprises. Watch the Guardian next week for details on this elaborate affair.

Rondeau Offer Ruled Legally Unacceptable

In the absence of Mayor Feindel, Councilman J. Arthur Sullivan presided at last Tuesday night's city council meeting.

Several routine matters came up relating to the Public Works Department such as petitions for a sidewalk, street entrance, wires, etc., and flooded cellar and all were referred to the proper committee for investigation and report.

Several petitions for the renewal of taxi and pool room licenses were also given the usual consideration with reference to committees or a vote to grant.

The item of real interest to the public of the city was the report of the Committee on the Shoe Factory. It appears that the committee or part of it paid Concord a visit but did not get much encouragement from the Governor on the matter of financing the Burtman-Rondeau Shoe Factory proposition.

(Continued on Page 4)

CLUB JOLIETTE

FIRST ANNUAL

SNOWSHOERS' BALL

State Armory, May 3rd

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From 8:30 to 1:00 A. M.

Music by

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The COOS GUARDIAN

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WAR AND WAGES

For some time now the newspapers have been filled with news relating in one way or another to war or wages. The two have no necessary connection. It is simply a matter of coincidence that they both come to the limelight at the same time.

The trend in the war news is bad. It is in the opposite direction from what it should be. We all recall how governments induced their subjects to submit themselves to the horrors of the World War. It was to be the last war, the war to end war. It was a war, as far as Americans were concerned, to make the world safe for democracy. As a matter of fact there is less democracy in the world today than in 1914 and war clouds are thicker although the storm is not likely to burst for considerable time.

There are more men under arms in Europe today than in 1914. Race hatred and nationalistic suspicion among the countries are fully as strong as in 1914. The international munition manufacturers have reported an increase in business throughout the depression both in present output and in standing orders. Their propaganda put out under the veil of patriotism, preparedness, and defense has seldom been better organized. The European nations are rearming rapidly and Japan is controlled by a military clique.

In Europe the disarmament conference, long a sham, now appears to be on the verge of an admitted failure. France will not consider disarming except through the League and with guarantees. Italy favors a four-power disarmament understanding; Germany would like a bilateral agreement with France to permit its rearmament; and England as always would like the role of mediator and a balance of power.

Japan has carved itself a choice morsel of China to exploit and stands ready to apply a military Monroe Doctrine to China with that country as the ward and Japan as the guardian. England appeared disturbed and Russia concerned with the prospect of a China under the eventual domination of Japan.

So it goes. The nations are moving towards war much in the same manner that they did in the period that came before the World War. Yet the people are strangely just as nonchalant as they were then, in spite of the fact that if war does come, they, and not their leaders, will shoulder the gun. We suppose the reason is that the people do not realize that this lack of interest in their own welfare has been and will be extremely costly in life and money. It is much easier to follow bad leadership than it is to lead rightly.

The other burning question is the wage situation which is agitated particularly in the United States. The codes provide for certain minimum rates varying with different industries. These codes were promptly accepted by Labor but more or less reluctantly accepted by employers. Of late Labor has become more aggressive throughout the country and is seeking raises in brackets above the minimum rates set by the codes. The auto and steel workers have had raises. The railroad employees will soon bring their wage problem to a head. Disputes now exist in the textile and shoe industries; the auto industry, supposedly quieted, indicates that more trouble looms as strikes are declared in St. Louis and Cleveland.

On the whole throughout the country under the N. R. A. the income of employing corporations has gone up and the most generous dividends since the depression have been declared. The whole policy of the N. R. A. was to go easy on profits and pay out in wages so that the country's purchasing power might be

restored; then the owners of industry would benefit more than if they insisted on profits before wages. It is therefore natural that the labor organizations practically everywhere should demand wage increase on the appearance of dividends due to the N. R. A. and in view of the fact that commodity prices have gone up thus increasing in a substantial degree the cost of living. The wage trend is moving in the right direction from the viewpoint of the country as a whole but the war trend is moving the wrong way from the viewpoint of the people.

Close-Ups of News Budgets Showing the Present Cost of Living

By BIJOIE

"BOSS CURRY"

John F. Curry, Tammany leader, was voted out by his own executive committee because of his "blunders."

His blunders appear in the main to be no worse than those of other political bosses in the country. He made bad guesses as to the outcome of current elections. It is simply that the depression has turned the people against those in office and power and that if established machines are to survive they have to reorganize with new personnel. That is the mistake that was made, and evidently Tammany is "wiseing up."

YELLOW MONROE DOCTRINE

Japan has announced recently that henceforth Asia is to have its Monroe Doctrine which she will probably enforce more ruthlessly than we did ours.

The white powers have nobody to thank for this but their own shortsightedness. In the last undeclared war between armed Japan and unarmed China, China complained to the League of Nations. The latter came, saw, and reported in favor of China, but did nothing. The race is now between Japan and Russia. Japan wishes to dominate China and Russia to Sovietize it.

"FARMER-LABOR PARTY"

In Minnesota the Farmer-Labor Party has put the two old political parties out of commission. In 1932 it supported Roosevelt for President. As the A. A. A. is breaking down at least in the estimation of the Minnesota farmers, that party is now outstripping Roosevelt. At a recent state convention the Farmer-Labor party adopted a platform calling for government ownership of factories, mines, banks, insurance, transportation and utilities. In opposition to this the two old parties are now fusing, so the result of the next Minnesota elections should be interesting.

"SOUP"

One thousand soupmakers in Camden, N. J., employees of the Campbell Soup Co., pledged themselves to stay on strike until that company abolished its company union and granted them the 1929 wage level. We hope the housewife soupmakers will not take this too seriously and try to imitate them.

Louis Philip Villeneuve JEWELER

Special Reduced Prices on Repairs for one week

Member Coos County Workers Club
525 Main Street, Berlin, N. H.

Following are two budgets which have been assembled by the members of the budget committee picked by the club to investigate the living conditions in Berlin for the present time.

The first one amounts to \$19.30 for a family of three leaving a matter of from two to three dollars for doctor, clothes, smokes, and spending money; we should think that the matter of clothes alone would absorb the balance left on a pay of \$22.00 a week.

The next for a family of six gives another low estimate for clothes are provisioned only to the extent of \$2.00 a week, or \$104.00 a year to (Continued on Page 3)

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**BUDGETS SHOWING
PRESENT COST OF LIVING**

(Continued from Page 2)
clothe a man, his wife, and four children. If the man buys one suit, \$25.00, one overcoat or topcoat, \$20.00, two pairs of shoes, \$7.50 (\$5.00 dress and \$2.50 work), and stockings, ties, shirts, hat, etc., for \$7.50, he already has spent \$60.00 of his reserve for clothes, leaving \$54.00 to clothe his wife and four children, and here again we would say that this estimate on a budget is very low.

Family of three:
Rent \$4.00 Milk \$1.65
Lights .50 Fuel 2.00
Carfare .70 Medicine 1.00
Insurance 2.20 Groceries 6.00
Meat 1.25

Total \$19.30
The \$1.00 medicine would be for baby which would not leave very much for other occasional doctor calls.

This man's pay was \$21.60, leaving \$2.30 a week for clothes, smokes, doctors, spending money, church, etc., which is much too low.

How much money can he put away for a rainy day?

Family of six:

Groceries	\$7.00	Milk	\$2.25
Rent	3.75	Insurance	2.25
Laundry	.75	Lights	.50
Fuel	2.00	Carfare	.70
Clothes	2.00	Sickness	1.25
Church	.60		
Total			\$24.05

Here again we have \$2.00 a week to clothe a family of six which to our mind, and at existing prices, is an utter impossibility. For emergency all this budget carries is \$1.25. If we should add another \$2.00 for clothes, and \$1.50 for tobacco and spending money the man cannot put away a cent at the prevailing wages in the community.

The writer has been conducting an investigation of the retail prices in Berlin as compared with the high level of 1929 and the figures cited by the merchants showed a strong return toward the 1929 prices with the clothing and furniture stores having already reached that level. Groceries are still behind a little but the strong upswing of the last few months tends to show that 1929 prices will soon prevail for food commodities.

WORKERS TO CONFER WITH COMPANY ON WAGES (Continued from Page 1)

Petition and Resolution for an Increase in Wages to Improve Living Conditions in Berlin.

To the Brown Company, a corporation by law established and having a principal place of business in Berlin, County of Coos and State of New Hampshire:

WHEREAS business conditions have improved under the N. R. A., WHEREAS corporate incomes have been increased,

WHEREAS the cost of living has undergone a corresponding increase, WHEREAS wages and salaries have lagged behind the general business improvement and behind the increased cost of living,

WHEREAS employers generally recognizing the above have increased wages in various industries, and

WHEREAS no general increase in wages has been forthcoming in Berlin,

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the employees of said Brown Company, at said Berlin, in a union organized and in force, and through representatives of our own choosing, do hereby petition said Company and its management according to the tenor and meaning of the following resolutions passed by the union of said employees at a special meeting posted and convened for that express purpose in the City Hall at said Berlin, Sunday, April 22, 1934:

RESOLVED: that the Brown Company be petitioned as follows in order that working and living conditions be improved:

(1) That a wage schedule equal to the weekly pay of the year 1929

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be made effective by said Company for its employees on May 1, 1934, and that all employees of the said Company be included in the said raised wage schedule save superintendents.

(2) That all emergency time or work outside of regular hours be not included in the forty-hour schedule, and that all overtime, emergency time, and Sunday time be paid at the rate of time and one-half.

(3) That the seniority rule govern in all cases of hiring, discharge, promotion and advancement of employees.

(4) That there be employee representation in all matters relating to the status of the employees in their relations with said Company. Brown Company Division Coos County Workers Club.

TO LET

4-Room Rents, 65 Elm St. Handy to mills and Ste. Anne's Church. \$6.00 a month. Apply to Mrs. Morris Hutchins, 90 Wight St. Tel. 853-W.

TO LET

4-Room Rent at rear of 142 Elm Avenue. Apply to E. Hamel on premises.

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Member of C. C. Workers Club**

ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

The subscriber has been duly appointed by the Judge of Probate for the County of Coos, administrators, with will annexed, of the estate of Edmund Sullivan, late of Berlin, in said County, deceased, testate. All persons having claims against said estate are requested to exhibit them for adjustment, and all indebted to make payment.

April 2nd, A. D., 1934.
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MRK H. TAYLOR,
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Barbers Vote to Uphold the Code

At a Barbers' Meeting, held Thursday, April 19, it was decided not to lower the prevailing prices nor to shorten hours of work which now total 48 hours a week.

The Barbers' investigating committee from the Workers Club reported many infractions of the rules such as 25 cent haircuts and working before and after hours. The assembled representatives of the trade nominated E. Boutin to the Grievance Committee with power to investigate each individual's stand with the Workers' Club and also their compliance with the code drafted by the barber-members and approved by the Club.

Messrs. Victor Laforce and Antoine Biron were nominated to the executive committee and meetings are to be held the last Thursday of each month, at the Guardian Office, in the Stahl-Clarke Building.

The Club has drafted a code of fair competition for local barbers and has a committee investigating the barbers' situation in the city and will report its findings at the next meeting, as well as the barbers who fail to comply with the regulations as set by the assembled barbers.

A list of those who adhere to this code will be published shortly.

RONDEAU OFFER LEGALLY UNACCEPTABLE

(Continued from Page 1)

The committee officially reported that the City of Berlin cannot legally enter into the proposed contract with the shoe company in question, and that it must therefore decline the offer of that concern. The committee also reported that it favored city co-operation with the Shoe Company to the limit of its legal capacity such as furnishing a site for a factory. This will be a disconcerting item for the people generally. Public sentiment was in favor of getting the shoe factory "somehow," and the local business men favored it rather strongly. It seems peculiar that it should be dismissed as easily as it has been.

A petition was presented in behalf of the Berlin Taxpayers Association to the effect that the City of Berlin assume the expense of trying the case now in order for the June session of the State Supreme Court. It will be recalled that it was a plank in the Labor platform that the City should attempt to recover on the tax collector's bond.

The suit for the recovery of that money is for the benefit of the whole city and consequently it is unfair that just a few should bear the cost. Councilman Barnes made the motion that the petition be accepted and granted but on the ob-

jection of Councilman Rumney supported by Councilman Sullivan, he withdrew his motion, the argument being that the petition should first be referred to the City Solicitor and also in view of the fact that the Mayor was absent. This is an old matter with which the council is thoroughly familiar and action should be taken no later than next week.

The ordinary appropriations for the different departments were voted in the customary way and the Council adjourned subject to the call of the Mayor.

BUTLER AND VAN ZANDT IN BERLIN TOMORROW

(Continued from Page 1)

cause of his military accomplishments but also because of the mark he has made in American civic life. Besides having served under fire on about 120 different occasions he was awarded two Medals of Honor by Congress and has been decorated by four Presidents of the United States. His most widely known and worthy peace-time activity has been the curbing of crime in the city of Philadelphia. He was called on by the mayor of that city and named Director of Public Safety and the job which he accomplished in the reorganization of the Police Department and of driving out the vicious underworld element became nationally applauded. General Butler has also been recognized as one of the leading exponents in the national campaign for better Veteran Legislation, and some of his articles published in nation-wide weeklies have had a great reverberation on public opinion.

A grand Reception Ball at the State Armory will be held immediately after the Open Meeting and Commander Van Zandt and General Butler will lead the grand march. Lloyd Rafnell and his Georgians will furnish the music.

There has been such a demand on V. F. W. officials to hear the distinguished orators speak that a certain number of seats have been reserved until 7:15 Thursday night, for those who hold invitations to the ball. Plans to use the Armory for the meeting had to be dropped because of conflict with the Reception Ball.

WORKERS CLUB WEEKLY MEETING

(Continued from Page 1)

Frank Moreau, councilman from Ward 3, was nominated for re-election and will be opposed by A. Birt. The offices of Financial Secretary and Treasurer were merged into one job. Ira Cole, present Financial Secretary, was nominated to the new office and will be opposed by Albert Lennon. Mr. Lennon in a brief address to the members, stated he wanted them to vote for Mr. Cole.

For Recording Secretary the members nominated Emile Labranche, the present holder of the office and Everett Smith. Mr. Smith said he would work for Labranche's re-election. The election of officers will take place at next week's meeting.

The Berlin Baseball Club has elected its officers for the coming season and practice will start immediately. Prospects are for a strong team this season with the line-ups of the Pan-Am and the Fro-Joy combined.

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